

10/695,995
DOCKET NO. K06-163512M/TBS

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REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2, 4-5, and 7-8 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 1, 3-4, and 7 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 1 and 3 are allowed. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 5-6 and 8-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and the informalities are corrected. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Further, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's admission that "the Prior Art does not disclose regulating the gain." In this regard, this Amendment amends independent claims 4 and 7 to incorporate this feature thereby placing this application into condition for allowance.

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The Office Action objects to claims 2, 5-6, and 8-9. This Amendment amends claims 2, 5, and 8 in accordance with Examiner Miller's very helpful suggestions. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

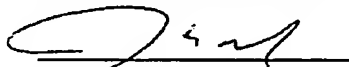
Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date:

5/26/05

Respectfully Submitted,



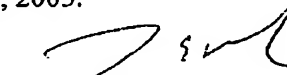
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Patrick L. Miller, Group Art Unit 2837 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 26th day of May, 2005.



James E. Howard

Registration No. 39,715